

45. The North Rhodesian Giraffe.
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(Plate LXXXVI. †)

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On the 20th of October, 1910, the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) received from Mr. H. Thornicroft, Native Commissioner, Petauke, North-east Rhodesia, the skin, skull, and limb-bones of an adult male Giraffe shot by himself in that district. Mr. Thornicroft had previously called on me in London, and expressed his willingness to shoot and present to the Museum a Giraffe from the single herd in this part of Rhodesia, if the necessary permit could be obtained. This was in due course procured, and was followed, after an interval, by the arrival of the above-mentioned skin and bones.

The skin was soon afterwards set up by Rowland Ward Ltd., and the mounted specimen placed in the big case at the head of the staircase leading to the East Corridor of the Museum, alongside the male and female of the East African *Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*. As it is mounted with the neck bent, it is difficult to ascertain the exact height, but I estimate this at close on 18 feet, or possibly rather more.

When the specimen was installed in its case, it became essential that it should receive a distinctive name; and I accordingly communicated the following preliminary note to 'Nature' ‡:—

"This Giraffe is characterised by the low and conical frontal horn, the grey colour and scattered spotting of the sides of the face, the chestnut-brown forehead, deepening into black on the tips of the horns, the absence of a distinctly stellate pattern in the neck and body spots, which are light brown on a yellowish fawn ground, and the uniformly tawny colour of the lower portion of the limbs. This Giraffe, which I propose to call *Giraffa camelopardalis thornicrofti*, appears to be related to the Kilimanjaro *G. c. tippelskirchi*, but differs by the more compact frontal horn, the brown, in place of grey, forehead, and the uniformly fawn lower part of the legs, the latter being whitish in adult bulls [of *tippelskirchi*], but fawn and spotted in cows and young bulls."

The last statement rests on the authority of Messrs. M. de

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† For explanation of the Plate see p. 773.

‡ Vol. lxxxvii. p. 484 (1911).

Rothschild and H. Neuvillé*, who state that in the East African Giraffe which they describe as *rothschildi*, but which—despite the locality whence it is stated to come—is certainly *tippelskirchi*, these age and sex differences are observable. I have, however, doubts whether they hold good in all cases; and it is still possible, in spite of what I have previously written, that there may be one form (*schillingsi*) in which the shanks of adult bulls are white and another (*tippelskirchi*) in which they are fawn and spotted †, and further, that these two types may intergrade.

That the nearest relative of the Rhodesian Giraffe is *G. c. tippelskirchi*, may be considered certain. Of the latter I have had for comparison the mounted head and neck of an adult male, a mounted immature female, and the mounted head and neck of a calf, as well as a coloured plate in Messrs. de Rothschild and Neuvillé's memoir ‡.

Elaborating to a certain extent the foregoing brief diagnosis, attention may be directed to the fact that *tippelskirchi* and *thornicrofti* agree (and thereby differ markedly from *rothschildi*) in having the triangular space between the eye and the nostril devoid of spots. In the adult male of *tippelskirchi*, however, the ground-colour of the whole head is dirty greyish white, whereas in *thornicrofti* the forehead is chestnut or umber-brown, deepening into black at the tips of the horns, which are grey in the Kilimanjaro race.

In the Rhodesian Giraffe the spots on the region behind the eye and the side of the lower jaw are very faintly marked, and blackish grey in colour; whereas in the Kilimanjaro bull they are larger, more numerous, and chocolate-brown in colour, being deeper in tint than the neck-spots (this feature being also shown in the immature female and the calf).

In *thornicrofti* the spots on the neck are burnt-umber in colour and markedly elongated in form, with their terminal ends jagged. There are about eight of them in the longitudinal row which starts immediately in advance of the point of the shoulder. In *tippelskirchi* they are more numerous (ten or eleven in what appears to be the corresponding row), less elongated, and much more irregular in shape.

Compared with the young cow *tippelskirchi*, the spots on the body of *thornicrofti* are less numerous, more especially on the hind-quarters, while many of them are more deeply incised on one side, although they are less jagged in general contour. The spotting on the inner side of the thighs and of the upper part of the fore-legs is also much less pronounced. In the original description (which was drawn up when the specimen was in the basement of the Museum) it is stated that the shanks of the legs are uniformly fawn, but, as a matter of fact, they are

* Ann. Sci. Nat., Zool. ser. 9, vol. xiii. pp. 124, 129 (1911).

† See Proc. Zool. Soc. 1904, vol. i. p. 219.

‡ *Op. cit.* pl. ii, fig. 1, lettered *G. c. rothschildi*.

rufous-fawn with very faint traces of spotting nearly down to the fetlocks; while from the latter to the hoofs they are dirty greyish white.

The foregoing evidence clearly establishes the right of the North Rhodesian Giraffe to rank as a distinct local race; and if it be true that the one herd is completely isolated, there is probably no intergradation with the Kilimanjaro race.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE LXXXVI.

Adult bull of *Giraffa camelopardalis thornicrofti*.

46. On Antler-Growth in the Cervidæ, with special reference to *Elaphurus* and *Odocoileus* (*Dorcelaphus*). By R. I. Pocock, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., Superintendent of the Gardens and Curator of Mammals.

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Introduction.

Most, if not all, the attempts that have hitherto been made to understand the antlers of Deer and arrive at correct conclusions regarding the homology of the tines have been based upon comparisons between the fully formed antlers of different species. This, in my opinion, is the reason why there has been failure in some cases to detect homologies which study of the growth of individual antlers reveals.

The importance of this question depends upon the circumstance that twenty years ago Mr. Gordon Cameron* proposed a classification of the Cervidæ, based upon the antlers, as a substitute for the classification, founded upon the skeletal structure of the fore feet, which Sir Victor Brooke had suggested †.

To make clear the purpose of the present paper, it is necessary to summarise briefly the rival classifications put forward by these two authors. Sir Victor Brooke divided the Cervidæ into two

* 'The Field,' 1892, pp. 265, 703, 741, 860.

† P. Z. S. 1878, pp. 883-928.